

From: Tom Witmer
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

My comments about the Microsoft settlement:

The proposed settlement does not appear to prevent any of the discovered problems from being prevented in the future. Also, the fuzzy definitions of so many terms render it essentially meaningless. Almost every restriction on Microsoft has an "out" that lets Microsoft evade the terms by simply claiming they needed to do whatever they wanted to do out of "security".

As anyone who is familiar with Microsoft's handling of viruses alone over the last few years, Microsoft does not, and never has, cared about security of the consumer.

Further, as one who's been in many disputes over the meaning of well-written and clear software requirements, it's obvious that this poorly worded one will never render satisfaction to either side.

Worst of all, the enforcement provisions are essentially meaningless. Microsoft has repeatedly failed to govern its own behavior in the past. What has changed that provides an impression that Microsoft is suddenly capable of doing this ethically?

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